

In the specification:

Please add the following heading between paragraphs [0013] and [0014]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Please replace paragraphs [0018] and [0019] with:

[0018] The connecting structure 26 further includes associated openings or mounting windows 34 formed in the active layer 12 to which the shim layer 18 is attached. The windows 34 are sized and positioned to receive the bend tabs ~~34~~ 32 which, as best shown in Figures 3 and 6, extend through the windows 34 and are bent over toward one another, to effectively wrap the tabs 32 about an overlapped region 36 of the active layer 12 to which it is attached. The overlapped regions 36 onto which the tabs 32 are bent are spaced laterally from one another and from the neck region 30 of the tab portions 28. The overlapped regions 36 are further spaced from the annular portions 20 of the shim layer 18 as well as the seal embossments 16 of the active layer 12 to which the shim layer 18 is attached. As best shown in Figures 3 and 6 5, the bend tabs 32 each have a fold line 38 at the edge of each corresponding window 34 which is spaced laterally from the neck region 30, such that the bend tabs 38 are folded upon themselves, rather than upon the neck region 30. The windows 34 preferably are wide enough to enable the bend tabs 32 to be bent initially from a flat condition in the plane of the tab portions 28 upwardly through the windows 34 and back onto the overlapped regions 36 of the active layer 12 to which the shim layer 18 is attached.

[0019] The active layer 12 to which the shim layer 18 is attached further preferably includes a central cutout or relief window 40 extending along the axis A radially outwardly of the seal embossments 16 and beyond the radially outer end of the tab portions 28, as best illustrated in Figure 3. This relief window 40 is preferably slightly wider than the neck region 30 of the tab portion 28, but is spaced inwardly from the ends of the bent over tabs 32. The windows 34, 40 define a relatively thin clamping portion 42 of the active layer 12 to which the shim layer 18 is attached and onto which the bend tabs 32 are folded. This clamping portion 42 is spaced from the neck region 30 of the tab portion 28 and defines, in part, the overlapped regions 36 of the active layer 12. The tab portions ~~46~~ 28 and windows 34 thus serve to connect the shim layer 18 to the active layer 12.